MARVEL

1

GAMBIT

CLAREMONT
KOTIAN
GRUNDETJERN

CAIRO, ILLINOIS--

NORMAL CITY, PERCHED ONNA BANKS O' THE MISSISSIPPI.

NORMAL MOMENT, BOULEVARDS THICK WIT' END-OF-DAY CROWDS ON THEIR WAY HOME.

GEM

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EV'RYONE SO FOCUSED ON THEIR OWN LIVES...

...THEY BARELY AWARE O' THE WORLD AROUND THEM.

'TIL THEY BUMP.

HEY?!

WHA'S YO' PROBLEM, *HOM?*

I'M SORRY

I DIDN'T MEAN

SOMEONE STOP THAT KID!

WHAT HE DO, HE GRAB SOMETHIN'?

THE WAY HE BUMPED ME, I THOUGHT...

SORRY

SORRY

SORRY

FALSE ALARM, I WAS WRONG, EVERYTHING'S OKAY.

ACCIDENTS HAPPEN, MY FRIEND. NO PROB.

A LITTLE LATER...

YOU DID GOOD, *'RO.*

MAN WAS SO HAPPY TO FIND HIS WALLET, HE NEVER REALIZED YOU JUS' *PUT IT BACK.*

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, *REMY.*

WHY'D YOU MAKE ME RETURN HIS STUFF?

'CAUSE THA'S THE FIRST THING HE CHECKED.

THIS AIN' 'BOUT GETTING HIS MONEY, *CHÈRE.*

'S'ABOUT ME LEARNIN' WHAT YOU CAN DO.

AN' HOW GOOD YOU ARE.

*(I DON'T LIKE TESTS.)**

DON' LIKE THAT, GIRL, THEN WALK AWAY.

**TRANSLATED FROM ARABIC.*

SO, WHAT'S NEXT?

GON' BUST INTO THE MAN'S SAFE, O' COURSE.

Remy LeBeau is a thief. Growing up in New Orleans, he honed his craft from a young age as part of the Thieves Guild.

He is also a **mutant**, and with his power to draw out the potential energy of any given object, he can make even something as harmless as a simple playing card an item of explosive force to be reckoned with.

Remy has used his powers and skills to lead a life of adventure and intrigue, traveling and stealing and gallivanting. This devil-may-care lifestyle has crossed his path with that of **Ororo Munroe**, A.K.A. **Storm**--the leader of the mutant heroes known as the **X-Men**.

But a recent encounter with the villainous **Nanny** and **Orphan-Maker** has left Ororo de-aged back to childhood, with her memory and mutant power to control the weather unreliable at best.

Remy saved her from the machinations of a psychic force known as the **Shadow King**, and the two have set off on an adventure of their own. Ororo was a thief on the streets of Cairo as a child. Remy still plies his trade. Now, paired together, the world is their oyster.

Thus begins this untold chapter in the life of Remy LeBeau, the mysterious mutant perhaps better known as...

GAMBIT

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EDITOR'S NOTE:
This story takes place in the previously unexplored time period only glimpsed during UNCANNY X-MEN #267.

WOW!

FIND A WAY IN, DISABLE THE LOCKS AN' ALARMS, OPEN'A DOOR FOR ME.

GOOD AS DONE.

〈IF REMY'S SO GOOD, HOW COME I HAVE TO DO ALL THE WORK?〉

〈SOMETIMES, EVEN COOL GUYS CAN BE SO--〉

〈--ICK!〉

〈CHIMNEY LOOKS LIKE THE EASIEST WAY IN--〉

〈--WHY'S IT--SO HARD--TO BREATHE?〉

〈MY HEART-- BEATING SO FAST!〉

〈SO DARK DOWN THERE.〉

〈WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?〉

〈I'M FALLING!〉

THE BUILDING'S FALLING DOWN!

ORORO!

MOMMY!!!

CAN'T DO IT
CAN'T DO IT
CAN'T DO IT
CAN'T DO IT
CAN'T DO IT

NO!

I'M NOT THAT GIRL ANYMORE.

I DON'T RUN, I DON'T HIDE--

--I DON'T GIVE UP!

I FIGHT!

‹PITCH-DARK'S NO PROBLEM FOR ME.›

‹I SEE AS GOOD AT NIGHT AS BY DAY.›

‹CONDUITS ARE SET.›

‹ALL I NEED NOW IS FOR MY POWER TO PROVIDE A SPARK--›

‹--PLEASE-PLEASE-PLEASE-PLEASE-PLEASE-PLEASE-PLEASE.›

SPARK

KLIK

GOTCHA!

HOW'D YOU GET INSIDE?

AH SWIPED AN' COPIED THE MAN'S KEYS YESTERDAY.

THEN WHY--?!

LIKE AH SAID, *CHÈRE*--WE GON' WORK T'GETHER, STANDS T' REASON MAN'S GOTTA KNOW WHAT'CHU CAN DO, AM I RIGHT?

NOW AH'M GETTING AN IDEA.

STOP THIS FOOLISHNESS, GIRL! YOU GON' ACT LIKE A CHILD...

...BEST WE PART WAYS RIGHT NOW.

WE DID GOOD, 'RO.

MONEY'LL GO T' THOSE WHO NEED IT, AN' THESE PAPERS--

--WELL, IF A MAN DON' WAN' SCANDAL, BETTER HE SHOULD B'HAVE HIMSELF.

‹HE CALLS HIMSELF THE "SHADOW KING."›

AH DON' SPEAK ARABIC, *CHÈRE.*

SORRY. IT'S JUST HOW I'M USED TO THINKING.

YOU SPEAK ENGLISH WIT' AN ACCENT.

CAIRO IS WHERE I GREW UP. WHERE I LEARNED-- EVERYTHING.

EXCEPT-- HERE--EVERYTHING'S ***DIFFERENT*** FROM WHAT I REMEMBER.

THERE'S A BIG RIVER--BUT NAMED MISSISSIPPI, NOT THE NILE.

WHERE'S THE DESERT, AND THE PYRAMIDS?

HOW CAN THINGS BE SO WRONG AND YET FEEL SO-- RIGHT?

DUNNO. TRY IT AGAIN, WHAT YOU WAN' T' SAY?

ANAJIITA "MFALME KIVULI."

THA'S A NEW ONE.

IT'S--***SWAHILI.*** MY MOTHER'S TONGUE. SHE AND MY FATHER-- THEY DIED--A LONG TIME AGO.

YOU KEEP HOPPIN' LANGUAGES LIKE DIS...

...YOU GON' TURN HEADS, FOR SURE--

--WHICH IS THE ***LAST*** THING A THIEF WANTS.

AH UNDERSTAN' YOU CONFUSED, CHILD. AN' SCARED, AN' ANGRY.

BUT FOLKS LIKE US, WE NEED T' TRUST EACH OTHER.

SO YOU TAKE A BREATH...

...AN' YOU FOCUS ON ***ENGLISH,*** SO AH C'N UNDERSTAND YOU, 'KAY?

REMY, THERE'S SO MUCH NOISE INSIDE MY HEAD, SO MANY LANGUAGES-- IT'S--

--HARD!

'S TIME T' STOP RUNNIN', LI'L THIEF.

YOU GON' GIVE UP, THEN-- LET THAT FEAR BEAT YOU?

FIND YOU' COURAGE, GIRL, FACE YO' FEAR--

--AN' SPIT IN ITS EYE!

I'LL-- ***TRY.***

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HE CALLS HIMSELF THE *SHADOW KING.*

HE IS A *MONSTER.*

HE'S SAID TO BE AS OLD AS TIME.

HE WEARS MANY FACES.

RIGHT NOW, THAT OF AN FBI MAN, *JACOB REISZ.*

TO HIM, WE ARE ALL JUST TOYS, PROVIDED FOR HIS AMUSEMENT.

THE STORIES ARE THAT HE STEALS SOULS.

HE WANTS MINE.

THAT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN.

HE THINKS I'M HELPLESS PREY.

I'M GONNA PROVE HIM *WRONG.*

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NIGHT YOU AN' I FIRST MET, HE HAD YOU COLD.*

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THE NEXT'LL BE ANY DIF'RENT?

YOU WANT ME TO RUN AWAY?

*AS SEEN IN UNCANNY X-MEN # 266! --SHADOW MARK

SOMETIMES, THA'S TH' ONLY PLAY.

NOT FOR ME, REMY!

THIS TIME, I'LL MAKE *HIM* SUFFER.

YOU, GIRL, ARE A WHOLE LOTTA TROUBLE.

WITH *PANACHE* T' SPARE.

JUS' LIKE ME.

PROB'LY WHY I LIKE YA.

HMNH-- FED'S GOT COMP'NY.

DR. MACTAGGERT, WHAT A PLEASURE TO FINALLY MEET--IN THE FLESH, AS THEY SAY.

I DO SO HOPE YOU'RE ENJOYING MY GAME--

--ESPECIALLY SINCE I'M *WINNING.*

SOMETHIN'S NOT RIGHT--I C'N FEEL IT IN MY BONES.

AND NONE WILL CHEER THAT TRIUMPH MORE THAN *YOU*--

--ONCE I'VE MADE A FEW MORE ADJUSTMENTS TO YOUR *PSYCHE.*

SURPRISING, ISN'T IT, TO DISCOVER HOW *VULNERABLE* YOU ACTUALLY ARE.*

I FIND THE EXPERIENCE-- *DELICIOUS.*

*TO SEE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS MEETING, CHECK OUT THE **MUIR ISLAND SAGA,** BEGINNING IN **UNCANNY X-MEN #278!** --METICULOUS MARK

SHORTLY, NOT FAR AWAY...

GIRL, I SAID STOP!

WHAT THE--?!

LEAVE HER ALONE!

WHOMP

YOUR OWN CUFFS SHOULD HOLD YA.

‹BETTER CHECK ON THE GIRL SHE WAS CHASING--›

KLIK

THWAP

OH!

ESTÚPIDA VACA!* YOU RUINED OUR AMBUSH!

SHOULDN'T GO POKING WHERE YOU'RE NOT INVITED.

OUR TURF, BABY GIRL, OUR GAME!

TIME TO TEACH YOU A *LESSON!*

BUT I WAS JUST TRYING TO--

*YOU STUPID *COW!*

--HELP?!

AND MAKE YOU *PAY!*

HATE T'INTERRUPT--

--BUT THIS AIN'T HARDLY WHA'CHA CALL "PROPER BEHAVIOR."

YOU JUST MADE A *BIG* MISTAKE--

--GETTING IN OUR WAY!

PROPER FOR US--

--IS GONNA BE BEATING YOU TO A BLOODY PULP!

UHHH, JAZZ--!

CADETS!

WHAT GOES ON HERE?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

MAKIN' THE OFFICER COMFORTABLE WHILE WE ALL GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS.

WHEN SHE WAKES, SHE'LL HAVE ALL THE STOLEN CLOTHES BUT NO PERPS T' YELL AT.

WELCOME T' THE BIRTH O' YET ANOTHER URBAN LEGEND.

WHAT ABOUT *THEM?*

SEEMS T' ME THEM "BABY BACCHAE" MAY'VE BROKE SOME RULES.

MAKES SENSE T' LET ***SABINE*** DEAL WITH 'EM.

YOU KNOW HER?

BACCHAE BE A GLOBAL CLAN OF WOMEN WARRIORS WHO CHART THEIR ORIGINS WAY, WAY BACK.

'COURSE YOU DO.

SIGH

YOU KNOW *EVERYBODY.*

LEBEAU.

SABINE.

WE HAVE A-- PROBLEM.

A CHALLENGE HAS BEEN ISSUED AGAINST YOUR COMPANION--

--FOR INTERFERING IN THE CADETS' GAME.

THEY LIVE BY THEIR OWN RULES-- SOMETIMES THEY DO GOOD, OTHERS NOT SO MUCH--

--EITHER WAY, Y' CROSS 'EM AT YOUR PERIL.

YOU ARE NOT BACCHAE, GIRL.

YOU MAY DECLINE WITHOUT DISHON--

I ACCEPT.

WE'LL SEE HOW GOOD SHE IS IN A FAIR FIGHT.

SABINE FIGURES 'RO'S MAKIN' A BIG MISTAKE, BUT SHE LIKES THE KID'S STYLE. SO DO I.

YOU KNOW ANYTHIN' 'BOUT THIS FBI *HOMME*, ***REISZ?***

WALK WELL CLEAR OF HIM, CAJUN.

WE BELIEVE HE IS THE CURRENT AVATAR OF THE ***SHADOW KING.***

THAT IS WHY I AM HERE.

THESE ARE BUT TRAINEES--THEY SHOULD NOT BE IN THE SAME ***HEMISPHERE*** AS THAT CREATURE.

HAD WE KNOWN OF HIS PRESENCE, THEY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN.

I AM HERE TO GET THEM SAFELY AWAY.

YOU SHOULD DO THE SAME WITH 'RO.

GIRL'S STUBBORN.

IT'S ***PERSONAL.***

ALL THE MORE REASON TO LEAVE WHILE YOU STILL CAN.

OR *LEAVE* HER, MY FRIEND. AND *NEVER* LOOK BACK.

WOULD YOU DO THAT T' ONE O' YER OWN?

NO. I WOULD KILL HER--

--AS A MERCY.

CAN'T. AH GOT A MYST'RY T' SOLVE.

AN' YOU KNOW HOW AH LOVE MYST'RIES.

YOU LIKE HER.

IF THE SHADOW KING HAS HER IN HIS SIGHTS, SHE IS DOOMED. YOU KNOW THAT.

AND YOU ARE A FOOL FOR STAYING BY HER SIDE.

MAYBE, *CHÈRE.*

MAYBE *NOT.*

IT WILL COST YOU DEARLY.

OF COURSE, THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT. WHAT BETTER CAUSE FOR A HERO-THIEF--

--THAN ONE THAT SEEMS UTTERLY *LOST?*

JAZZ NEVER SEES 'RO'S KICK COMIN'--AN' JUS' LIKE THAT, FIGHT'S OVER.

YOUR PROTÉGÉ HAS MADE ENEMIES.
JUST KIDS BEING KIDS, IS ALL.
AT THEIR AGE, CAJUN, I HAD FOUGHT IN BATTLE, SHED BLOOD--AND KILLED.
YOU ALWAYS WERE AN OVERACHIEVER, SABINE.
AND THEY LEARN VERY QUICKLY. BE WARNED, MY FRIEND. BE WELL.
YOU TOO, *CHÈRE.*

YOU STILL FEELIN' STUPID, GIRL?
IF I RUN AWAY, HE'S WON.
I HAVE TO SHOW HIM I'M WILLING TO FIGHT.

THAT FOR ALL HIS POWER...
...HE'S *NOT* A GOD.

HE'S VULNERABLE--
--IN WAYS HE'S NEVER IMAGINED.
YOU HOPE.
I *KNOW!*
DON' SOUND SO SCARED NO MORE, LI'L GIRL, LIKE YOU WERE B'FORE.

"I LEARNED SOMETHING FIGHTING JAZZ.

"I'M NOT LIKE THE MONSTER-MAN-- NOT LIKE YOU.

"I HARDLY HAVE ANY POWERS. I'M JUST A KID.

"I CAN'T HURT HIS BODY.

FOR ALL YOUR RESISTANCE, MOIRA--

--SURPRISINGLY STUBBORN, I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT...

BUT IN THE END, FUTILE--

--BODY AND SOUL, YOU ARE NOW *MINE.*

"SO I'M GONNA POKE HIS PRIDE.

"TAKE HIM BY SURPRISE.

"MAKE HIM FEEL SILLY.

"IN FRONT OF THE WORLD.

GOTCHA, MONSTER-MAN!

"ME, A HELPLESS LITTLE GIRL.

"IT'LL DRIVE HIM CRAZY.

"AN' CRAZY FOLKS, THEY MAKE MISTAKES."

SPLORT

WHO--

--DARES?!

YOU FLATSCANS DARE LAUGH AT ME?

FAR BETTER THAT YOU SCREAM!

AS MY TOUCH MAKES YOUR BRAINS BURN!

AND AS FOR WHOEVER ATTACKED ME...

...YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE!

I WILL FIND...

...NOTHING?

NOTHING.

ORORO!

YOU ARE INDEED A CLEVER LITTLE MINX.

CONGRATULATIONS, STORM. YOU HAVE MY ATTENTION.

I AM IN NO HURRY. TIME MEANS NOTHING TO ME.

SOON, YOU WILL FEEL MY WRATH.

FIRST, I WILL CLAIM THE SOULS OF ALL YOUR FELLOW X-FOLK.

YOUR FRIENDS WILL HUNT YOU DOWN.

AT THEIR HANDS, YOU WILL SUFFER.

AND THEN THEY WILL GIVE YOU TO ME.

REVENGE PROPERLY CRAFTED IS ALL THE MORE DELICIOUS.

HE'LL COME FOR YOU ONE DAY, Y' KNOW THAT, YAH?
LONGER HE WAITS, THE BETTER I'LL GET. IF I CAN DO THIS NOW...
...IMAGINE ME THEN!
DON'T GET COCKY, GIRL--
OH?!
--ELSE YOU FIND YOURSELF WISHIN' YOU WERE DEAD.
LEMME GO!
REMY, C'MON, THIS ISN'T FUNNY!
YOU'RE HURTING ME.
REMY--
--PLEASE!
JUS' MAKIN' A POINT, 'S'ALL.
SMUG FOLK GET CARELESS.
YOU DON' *EVER* WAN' GET CARELESS.
'SPECIALLY 'GAINST THE LIKES O' REISZ.
DON'T DO THAT TO ME AGAIN.
LEARN T' STOP ME, THEN.
I WILL.
SO WHAT'S NEXT?
YOUR OLD BUSINESS BE FINISHED, CHILD-- FOR NOW--
--TIME T' MOVE ON T' SOMETHIN' *NEW!*

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FAR FROM EARTH--

--AT PRETTY MUCH THE SAME TIME...

HERE'S MY LATEST CATCH, JEDSO.

HOW MANY THAT MAKE THIS CYCLE, *BOUNTY?*

CYCLE'S STILL YOUNG, MARSHAL.

YOU COMMIT THE CRIME--

--I'LL MAKE SURE YOU DO THE TIME.

FEE'S TRANSFERRED, SAME AS ALWAYS.

AND THIS IS FOR YOU.

HEY, ISN'T THAT--???

LILA CHENEY.

SHE'S THE *BEST* SINGER IN KNOWN SPACE.

AND AN EVEN BETTER *THIEF.*

WITH A *REWARD* TO PROVE IT.

CONCERT @ TAU-CETI PRIME

I'M HER BIGGEST FAN.

ENHANCE THE BACKGROUND FIGURE, JEDSO.

SOMEONE YOU KNOW?

A FRIEND OF HERS.

SHE TELEPORTS BETWEEN GALAXIES-- ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO CATCH.

BUT SHE'S FIERCELY LOYAL TO HER MATES.

I GRAB HIM...

...I BETCHA I'VE GOT HER.

NEXT: ITTY-BITTY LIES!

NEXT:

GAMBIT

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